

PIR SIBGHATULLAH PAGARO
ANDM.A. JINNAH
Aslam Hussain

I mentioned the articles about the 1942 Hur Movement which appeared in your esteemed quarterly to some Hur friends in Tharparkar when they requested me to ascertain from the writer the location of late Pir Saheb's grave.

The General to whom I wrote, has replied that the information about the island can be obtained from the Naval H.Q., but to trace a katcha grave after 45 years will be a difficult task. Once the island has been located, I think efforts can be made to locate the grave as well.

From the General's letters it appears you are interested in more material on the 1942 Hur Movement.

If I contact the Naval H.Q. about the island, I may get a rebuff, but I am sure a move from you, will bring the desired results, and they will dig out the relevant records. Whatever your views may be about the late Pir Saheb, I am sure you will agree, that he has a place in the history of Sindh, and would, therefore request you to move the Naval H.Q. for the location of the island and the grave.

I wonder if you came across the letter which the late Pir Saheb wrote to Quaid-e-Azam, and the reply he got in this connection. I am enclosing photostats of pages 102, 103 and 104 from the book "Plain Mr. Jinnah" by Syed Shamsul Hassan.

My late father, who happened to be the Legal Remembrancer and Judicial Secretary to the United Provinces Government at Lucknow, at the time spoke to the Chief Secretary Mr. R.F. Mudie (later Governor of Sind) about the execution. After hearing my father, Mr. Mudie in the next periodical d.o. letter to the Home Department, Government of India, added an observation "the crime for which Pir has been sent to the gallows, Mr. Gandhi has been sent to Aga Khan

Palace". The Chief Secretary of another province could probably do nothing more.

Trust you will move the Naval H.Q. about the island.

P.S My father also served in Pakistan, and the last office he held was that of Custodian of Evacuee Property for Sind Karachi and Baluchistan in 1961.

... PLAIN MR. JINNAH

In 1942, in the wake of the Quit India movement launched by the Congress, some incidents of arson and derailment of trains occurred in Sind. The Government accused the Hurs for them, and subjected them en masse to severe punishment. The Hurs retaliated. The Government imposed Martial Law on June 1, 1942, and arrested the Pir of Pagaro, and proceedings were started against him under martial Law.

The Pir wrote a letter to the Quaid on January 17, 1943, requesting him to see him and conduct his defence in the case fixed for hearing for January 29, 1943. The letter is in Urdu and reads as under:

محمد علی جناح سلامت

دوست ہر بان امید گاہ درویشان جناب عالی بعد سلامتی عرض ہے۔ براہ کرم آپ سندھ میں مجھ سے جلد آگرملاقات کیجئے۔ میرا کیس ۲۹ جنوری کو چالو ہوگا۔ میں آپ کی فی ہر طرح کی عداوت کو تیار ہوں، کیس مارشل لا کے کورٹ میں چلے گا اور کیس جلد آباد شہر میں چلے گا۔ اور میں جلد آباد شہر میں ہوں۔ میں نے آپ کو مسلمانوں کا مرنے کی بجھ کر یہ عرض کیا ہے۔ امید ہے آپ یہ عرض قبول کریں گے اور مجھ سے گناہ کو برائے خدا چھڑانے کی کوشش کریں گے۔
زیادہ تیر و سلام (پیر پٹاٹو)

Dialmal J. Lalwani, senior and reputed lawyer of Hyderabad had been engaged by the Pir to defend him. He sent the above letter to the Quaid with the following endorsement:

Dear Mr. Jinnah,

I have met the General. He says:

"I will put no obstacles to the Pir obtaining funds for his defence from such monies as may have been deposited by him with his followers for safe custody during his absence. Should any of his followers or acquaintances wish to subscribe sums for the Pir's defence, these sums may be deposited in his name in the Imperial Bank of India, Hyderabad."

I have also sent you today an express telegram reply paid.

The case is coming on the 29th instant. You should be here on the 22nd the latest, unless that is impossible. There shall be no postponement. The Pir will pay you your fees, etc.

Yours sincerely,

Dialmal J. Lalwani

On January 18, 1943, Dialmal also sent the following telegram to the Quaid:

PIR PAGARO CHARGED WITH SERIOUS OFFENCE
MILITARY COURT HYDERABAD DATE TWENTYNINTH
INSTANT UNCHANGEABLE STOP WANTS
YOU DEFEND HIM STOP PIR SHALL PAY YOUR
FEES STOP WIRE REPLY.

The Quaid replied to the telegram from Bombay on January 20, 1943:

YOUR WIRE REGRET UNABLE ACCEPT BRIEF PIR-
PAGARO OWING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS PROGRAM
ALREADY FILED.

Dialmal again sent a telegram on January 22, 1943:

PIR PAGARO REQUESTS YOUR PRESENCE EVEN
FEW DAYS YOUR TERMS WIRE.

The Quaid in reply sent the following telegram from
Bombay:

YOUR WIRE EXTREMELY SORRY IMPOSSIBLE MY
ENGAGEMENT AS ALREADY FIXED.

Shyamlal, military contractor of Garden Road,
Agra, sent a telegram to the Quaid on January
18, 1943:

DISTRICT JUDGE FIXED SECOND FEBRUARY
PLEASE INFORM IF SAME SUITS STOP

It was followed by another telegram on January 18, 1943:

PLEASE READ TWELFTH INSTEAD TWO STOP.

The Quaid replied on January 19, 1943:

YOUR TELEGRAM IMPOSSIBLE UNDERTAKE AT-
TEND CASE STOP KRIPLANI WILL EXPLAIN
REASONS.

This exchange of telegrams refers to a criminal
matter in